

## AUSTRIANS CROSS THE PIAVE RIVER

Italian Forces Fighting Hard to Oust the Invaders From the South Bank.

### RECAPTURED LOST POSITIONS

After Bloody Struggle Italians Recapture First Line Trenches in Mountains—Holding the Huns.

Washington, June 17.—The Italian and allied armies are bravely sustaining the weight of the Austrian forces which are attacking along the front of the Italian theater from northwest of the Asiago Plateau to east of the Piave river and thence along that stream to where it joins the headwaters of the Adriatic Sea, a front of nearly one hundred miles.

The Austrians, having made extensive preparations for the drive by bringing up strong re-enforcements in men and guns, many of them coming from the former battle line in Rumania and Galicia as a result of the debacle in the East, are using them without stint in the effort to debouch from the mountain passes and cross the Piave river and gain the Venetian plains.

#### Fighting Is Sanguinary.

Everywhere the fighting is of an extremely sanguinary character, especially east of the Asiago Plateau in the Brenta Valley and on Monte Grappa. In the initial struggle the enemy succeeded in capturing several front line positions in the mountain region from the British and also in crossing the Piave. Counter attacks, however, have restored all the positions in the mountains including territory to a depth of 1,000 yards along a 2,500-yard front captured from the British. At last accounts the Allied troops everywhere were strongly holding the enemy and Victor Emmanuel's men were gallantly striving to throw back the invaders across the Piave.

The Italians have taken more than 3,000 Austrian prisoners, among them ninety-nine officers.

#### Await Huns' Next Move.

Washington, June 15.—The attempted drive by the armies of the German crown prince toward Paris seems definitely to have been checked. With thousands of their men having been fed to the guns on the Montdidier-Noyon and Soissons-Villers Cotterets sectors in the mad rush to pierce the allied lines to open the way to the French capital, the maneuvers of the German commanders apparently have brought to the German arms nothing more than the obliteration of the Noyon salient and the capture of a few unimportant positions southwest of Soissons near the outskirts of the Villers Cotterets forest.

#### Germans Feared to Try Again.

Yesterday, the sixth day of the offensive between Noyon and Montdidier, witnessed only small local actions, the depleted German forces evidently fearing again to test the mettle of the allied troops in the Picardy sector, where cannon, machine guns and rifles had worked such havoc among them. Less than three days was required by the allies to bring the enemy to a virtual halt south of the Aisne.

The feeling still prevails in military circles in France that the main effort of the Germans has not yet been launched, and speculation is rife as to when it will come and what the general objective will be—whether Paris or the channel ports. It is known the enemy still has large effective available behind the lines, thousands of them brought from the Russian front.

The armies of General Foch are of such strength and good morale as to lead to the belief that, no matter where the enemy chooses to oppose them, they will be able to give a splendid account of themselves.

In the Marne sector there is almost continuous artillery activity in the region of Chateau Thierry, where the Americans are fighting beside the French. On the other sectors of the front comparative quiet prevails.

### PAPER MAIL RATES STAND

Washington, June 15.—The Senate finance committee at a special meeting today decided not to attempt suspension of publishers' second class mail rates which became effective July 1.

Although changes in the increased rates are regarded as certain by committee members when the new revenue bill reaches the Senate, all except Senator Smoot of Utah agreed today that any move to suspend the increases now would be hopeless in view of opposition in the House.

## USEFUL WORK TO BE PROVIDED

Hospital Centers Making Arrangements to teach Returned Army Men Occupations to Sustain Them.

Chicago, June 14.—Discussions of the reconstruction, re-education and rehabilitation of disabled soldiers, to be carried out in hospital centers in each of the sixteen military districts of the country, occupied an all-day session of the sixty-ninth annual convention of the American Medical Association, which concluded its general meetings tonight at a patriotic gathering. The sectional meetings will be completed tomorrow.

Col. Frank Billings of Chicago of the reconstruction division of the surgeon general's office at Washington told of the government plan to erect the hospital and educational centers declaring that while the "boys" are by the millions ready to die, the people at home must not be willing to let them "peddle shoestrings" when they come back.

A pension system should be placed under one authority, Major J. S. Todd, pension commissioner of Canada, advised.

"You have tinkered with your pension laws in the past," said Major Todd. "In Canada, we have no committee of both legislative houses that can 'railroad' pensions past us."

James P. Monroe, a Boston business man, who is vice chairman of the United States board for vocational education, advised employers and labor not to be alarmed at the prospect of thousands of partly disabled soldiers returning to industry.

He declared that the re-educated soldiers and sailors will be so taught that they can take places of usefulness that will not unbalance the labor situation.

T. B. Kidner of the Canadian department of soldiers' civil re-establishment, who had been detailed to Washington to aid in this government's rehabilitation work, told of the work done in Canada. He said that a follow-up system is being developed to keep in touch with all re-educated soldiers until they are fully rehabilitated.

### UNREST IN AUSTRIA GROWS

News of Internal Strife in Dual Empire Sifts Across Border—Slav Troops Mutiny.

Washington, June 17.—As the result of the declarations by President Wilson and the premiers of the Entente Powers with regard to the attitude of the Allies toward Polish national aspirations, governmental authorities at Berlin and Vienna have been forced to take cognizance of the strengthened determination of the Slav peoples for self-government, according to an announcement here tonight by the Polish national department in America.

The Central Powers, the announcement said, have been forced to focus their attention on the problem of combating the friendly propaganda of the Entente among the Slav races.

"In Austria," said the announcement, "the situation is acute because the affiliation of the Poles with the Czechs and Pugo-Slavs is growing more pronounced each day. The reports also are to the effect that the German officials have been disturbed as well as distressed by the recent triumphant re-election to the Reichstag of Deputy Korfanty from Silesia."

### HAVE SUNK 28 HUN U-BOATS

Senator Weeks Tells of American Navy's Work Since January 1—Against the Germans.

Pemberton, Mass., June 17.—Since January 1 our navy has sunk twenty-eight German submarines and our sailors should have the credit for it, Senator John W. Weeks, member of the Senate military affairs committee, said in addressing the Massachusetts Laundry Owners' Association here tonight.

"I believe when a heroic deed is done it should be made public," he added.

### BIG WASTE IN THE GARBAGE

Conservation of Fats and Fertilizer Material Planned by the Federal Food Administration.

Washington, June 14.—A campaign for the utilization of garbage has been inaugurated by the United States Food Administration. All state administrators have been advised to spread garbage utilization propaganda through their territory and urge upon housekeepers the necessity for keeping garbage (kitchen and table refuse) in a separate container from other house refuse.

## UNCOVER GRAFT IN WAR ORDERS

Department of Justice Agents Reveal Widespread Plot to Swindle Government.

### FOUR BOSTON MEN INDICTED

An Army Officer and a Michigan Contractor Already Given Terms in the Penitentiary.

Washington, June 18.—A nationwide conspiracy between manufacturers and contractors' agents in Washington to solicit government war orders under an agreement to pay commissions illegally to the agents, was disclosed today by the Department of Justice. Simultaneously with the announcement raids were made on hundreds of manufacturers' business offices throughout the United States in search of papers showing the scope of the illegal practice, and four Boston business men were indicted in Washington on charges of acting as contingent fee agents.

#### Agents Operate Secretly.

At least four or five contractors' agencies exist openly in Washington, it is said, ready to accept commissions to negotiate contracts.

Officials suspect a number of men operating secretly, some in co-operation with others and some individually, who maintain headquarters in Washington hotels and practice their profession slyly. Manufacturers who have been unable in the past to obtain contracts are said to have been their best customers, and in many cases the agents are said to have secured orders for their clients.

The identity of these agents has not been disclosed by the government. Neither did the Department of Justice today make public the names of companies whose records were examined. There is nothing criminal in their conduct, it was pointed out.

#### Many Contracts Invalid.

Officials indicated they had evidence that perhaps hundreds of contracts have been made with manufacturers who were under pledge to turn over to contract commission agents in Washington, New York and elsewhere a percentage of their profits.

#### Army Officer Sentenced.

The conviction of a Michigan contractor who connived with an army officer to procure a government contract recently has been obtained. The contractor was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary, and the officer was court-martialed and given a 20-year sentence.

### THE BUSCH ESTATE SEIZED

Title to the Late St. Louis Brewer's Property Reverts to United States Government.

Washington, June 18.—The entire estate in this country of Mrs. Lily Busch, widow of Adolphus Busch, late millionaire brewer of St. Louis, Mo., has been taken over by the government under the alien-property law.

This fact became known today in connection with the return to America of Mrs. Busch, who has been living in Germany for several years, or virtually since the death of her husband. The government has not yet appraised the property, which consists largely of breweries in St. Louis and other cities, stocks and bonds and real estate in New York, but it is generally believed to be worth many millions of dollars.

Palmer announced today the seizure of the estate was made some months ago and that the Union Trust Company of St. Louis had been named as depository and has been operating the property for the government.

### SEND ONLY MONEY TO BOYS

War Department Says It Will Be a Favor to Soldiers Not to Mail Articles.

Washington, June 18.—The war Department announced tonight that because of the congestion of railroads in France no exception can be made to the recent requirement that persons to ship parcel post packages to soldiers overseas must present at the postoffice an order from the major or higher officer commanding the unit to which the soldier is attached. This rule also applies to persons abroad attached to the Y. M. C. A., Red Cross and similar organizations.

The department said relatives and friends of soldiers will find it possible to do a greater service to the men by sending them money for the purchase of articles in France than by forwarding articles, as most supplies can be obtained there.

Sir William Manning Is Now Governor of Ceylon



Gen. Sir William Manning, who has been captain general of Jamaica since 1913, has recently been appointed to the governorship of Ceylon. The position is regarded as one of the best in the British diplomatic service. Sir William is no stranger to America, his former position at Jamaica often bringing him to this country.

### MAY VOTE ON WAR PROHIBITION

Senate Committee Reconsiders Former Action and Makes Plans for Hearings on the Amendment.

Washington, June 15.—The Senate Agricultural Committee late today reconsidered its vote of earlier in the day for a favorable report on the proposal of Senator Jones of Washington for national prohibition during the war and decided to hold hearings on the amendment. The committee, however, sustained its former action in eliminating from the Emergency Agricultural Bill the Randall prohibition amendment.

Senator Smith of South Carolina, acting chairman of the committee, announced that the hearings will open next Monday and continue until possibly Wednesday, after which the committee will determine what action it will take on the Jones amendment which would forbid the use of grain and foodstuffs in the manufacturing of malt or vinous liquors during the war.

Several members of the committee including Senator Norris of Nebraska, are said to be of the opinion that the amendment would be unconstitutional.

Rejection of the Randall amendment is understood to have been unanimous. Under its provision expenditure of approximately 6 million dollars provided in the Agricultural Appropriation Bill would have been prevented unless President Wilson exercised the powers conferred on him under the food control act and issued a proclamation prohibiting the use of foodstuffs in the production of beer or wine.

The committee also eliminated from the bill the House provision prohibiting the use of any money appropriated in the measure to any employee of draft age in the Department of Agriculture who had been given deferred classification.

Representatives of the department at a hearing before the committee yesterday vigorously objected to this section, declaring no exemption from military service had been asked for any employees whose services were not absolutely necessary.

#### Cure Our Wounded Quickly.

Washington, June 13.—Eighty percent of the American troops wounded in battle are being cured and returned to their forces within three or four weeks, it was announced today. It formerly required months of attention in military hospitals.

### CONDENSED NEWS ITEMS

—An unidentified man, dressed in a major's uniform of the American army, was arrested at Carrizo Springs, Texas, while negotiating for a site for a camp for 30,000 soldiers which he said was to be built there. It is believed he is a German spy who came over from Mexico.

—A series of early raids which surprised patrons of all-night restaurants, pool rooms and rooming houses in New York, netted 250 persons suspected by draft officials of attempting to evade military service.

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### MANY INDIAN PEACE EMBLEMS

Wisconsin Braves Still Retain Numerous Medals Given to Them by Various Governments.

Wisconsin Indians still retain many peace medals that were given to them or their ancestors by various governments, and some of the medals date back to 1720, according to an article on Wisconsin Indian medals in The Wisconsin Archeologist.

The earliest medals owned by Indian families today include one of brass issued at the time of George I, four of silver bearing the bust of George III, an old Spanish medal and four American medals.

A Washington medal is in the possession of an aged Ottawa Indian on the Menominee reservation near Shawano. Philip Nacotee, a Menominee Indian of the South Branch settlement, has a Lincoln medal. A silver medal with the bust of President Polk, dated 1845, was owned by the Menominee chief, Shunien.

Arthur Gerth, Milwaukee collector, once owned a silver medal issued by President Jefferson. An Andrew Johnson medal is in the collection of A. T. Newman of Bloomer. Dr. Alphonse Gerend is the owner of a silver George III medal, formerly the property of the Wisconsin chief, Waumegesak.

Thirty women wearing khaki trousers are working as pipefitters in a New Jersey chemical plant.



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